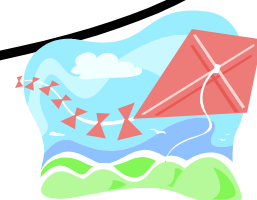


Region VI

Developmental Disabilities Newsletter



SEPTEMBER 2003
VOLUME 7; ISSUE 4



HHS TO AWARD \$30 MILLION TO RURAL HOSPITAL NETWORKS

HHS Secretary Tommy G. Thompson announced more than \$30 million in grants to states to improve health care for rural Americans by strengthening rural hospital networks, supporting State Offices of Rural Health, and encouraging rural health care coalitions. The grants will help maintain and upgrade small hospitals in remote areas and coordinate and improve health care delivery in rural parts of the country. Both steps are vital elements of strategies to make high-quality health care more easily available to rural Americans.

The rural health care grants will include:

- 45 Rural Hospital Flexibility grants, totaling almost \$22.6 million. The funds will go mostly to states to help hospitals interested in being certified as Critical Access Hospitals upgrade quality of care and improve emergency medical services. Critical Access Hospitals have 25 beds or fewer and qualify for special Medicare funding, including cost-based reimbursement.
- 50 grants totaling more than \$7.2 million to State Offices of Rural Health. The grants will help the state offices provide technical assistance to rural and frontier communities, coordinate statewide rural health activities, and recruit and retain rural health care providers.
- 2 Rural Health Outreach grants. The two grants -- \$200,000 to the Nassau County Health Dept. in Fernandina Beach, Fla., and \$189,475 to the Island Health Plan, Inc. in West Tisbury, Massachusetts -- will fund coalitions of at least three health-related organizations to stimulate innovative health care delivery in rural areas.

All of the grants are administered by HHS' Health Resources and Services Administration through its Office of Rural Health Policy (<http://ruralhealth.hrsa.gov>). The tables for the Rural Hospital Flexibility and Offices of Rural Health grants are available online at <http://www.hhs.gov/news/press/2003pres/20030807a.html>.



*Taken from:
HHS Press—August 07, 2003*

EDUCATION AND TRAINING VOUCHERS (ETV) FOR YOUTH AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE

The United States Congress appropriated \$42 million for payments to States to implement educational and training vouchers (ETV).

The statutory changes to the **CFCIP** program provide additional resources to make vouchers available for up to \$5,000 per year per youth for education and training, including post secondary education and training. Although the ETV program is integrated into the overall purpose and framework of the Chafee program, the program has a separate budget authorization and appropriation from the general CFCIP program. The FY 2003 Region VI State Allotments are:

STATE	ALLOTMENT
ARKANSAS	\$225,069
LOUISIANA	\$365,892
NEW MEXICO	\$124,876
OKLAHOMA	\$661,517
TEXAS	\$1,416,892

FISCAL ASSISTANT AVAILABLE

There has been a new link added to the ACF's Head Start web-page. The link will take you to all of the financial management regulations, cost principals, and audit requirements—it is usable for anyone looking for fiscal information. You may access the Fiscal Assistant by going to: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/hsb/hsfa/>.

There is also a link to the application on the Head Start Bureau home page under Programs/Services — Program Services Resources.

WHERE IS IT FOUND IN THE DD ACT?

"Nothing in this title shall be construed to preclude an entity funded under this title from engaging in advocacy, capacity building, and systemic change activities for individuals with developmental disabilities that may also have a positive impact on individuals with other disabilities."

The Answer Is In This Newsletter

On-Line Resource for Navigating Medicaid

A Medicaid "reference desk" has been created with the help of advocates and consumers. The content of the web site has been developed with the assistance of people who are using the Medicaid system and is geared to help people with cognitive disabilities better understand the system. The site is located at: www.thedesk.info

Taken From: NACDD Public Policy Update—9/5/03

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Jenesis Group for Youth Programs

The Jenesis Group is offering funds to non-profit and grassroots organizations that focus on youth development, education, and social entrepreneurship. The Foundation especially seeks preventative programs that empower disadvantaged youth and encourage them to become productive citizens. Letters of inquiry are accepted on a rolling basis.

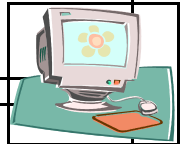
Find out more by going to: <http://www.jenesis.org/app/index.htm>.

Hasbro Children's Foundation Direct Service Funding

The Hasbro Children's Foundation supports innovative health, education, and social services program that share the Foundation's key values: caring, opportunity, and joy. Local, national, and replication/expansion grants are available, ranging from \$400 to \$35,000+ over one to three years. Deadline: rolling.

Find out more by going to: www.hasbro.org/hcf/

FAITH-BASED AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVE SECTION NOW ON ACF WEB-SITE



A new area on the ACF website is now devoted to the Faith-Based and Community Initiative (FBCI). This new website is designed to assist in reaching the goal of "leveling the playing field" for faith-based and community organizations that wish to partner. The new FBCI web area features information on the Faith-Based and Community Initiative, lists links to funding opportunities, offers descriptions of featured programs, and describes resources for faith-based and community organizations. The site also provides links to key websites such as the HHS Center for Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (CFBCI), the White House Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives, and the Compassion Capital Fund National Resource Center.

If you have comments or suggestions you feel would make the website more informative and effective, please contact Linda Adams in the Office of Information Services for technical issues or Deanna Carlson of the HHS CFBCI for content issues. To access the site go to: <http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/fbc>.

*Taken from: HHS News Press
August 26, 2003*

FINANCIAL AID FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES

An annual revision of a guide to financial aid for college (seeking) students with disabilities is now available. This edition contains completely updated and revised information to help individuals with disabilities to seek and obtain financial assistance for post-secondary education. The guide describes Federal financial aid programs, state vocational rehabilitation services, and regional and local sources. A listing of nationally awarded grants and a pre-college checklist to organize the search for funds complete the guide.

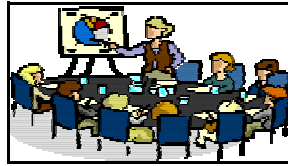
The guide is available at: www.health.gwu.edu.

Taken From: NACDD Public Policy Update—9/5/03

SECOND NATIONAL YOUTH SUMMIT

Mark Your Calendar Now!

November 6-8, 2003
Washington, D.C.



The National Youth Summit 2003 will bring together national, State, and local policymakers and community leaders; youth service providers; nationally acclaimed experts in the youth development field; and young people who are active in their communities.

Participants will have the opportunity to learn effective practices in youth development; hear from youth about ways to make a positive difference in their lives; discuss the White House Task Force for Disadvantaged Youth's findings and recommendations to the President; and network with colleagues on accomplishments and challenges. The Summit will feature skill-building sessions, youth panels, a youth town hall meeting, and workshops.

More Summit information is available on the Web site: <http://www.ncfy.com/Summit2003>.

*Taken From: Family and Youth Services Bureau Announcement
August 26, 2003*

EXPANDED MEDICAID BENEFITS TO WORKING INDIVIDUALS

HHS approved a request for New York to extend Medicaid benefits to thousands of the state's working disabled who otherwise would not have health care coverage. The state will offer Medicaid to working disabled individuals who are at least 16 but less than 65 years of age with incomes up to 250 percent of the Federal Poverty Level. Additionally, individuals could have assets up to \$10,000. The Federal Poverty Level for 2003 is \$8,980 for an individual.

The changes in the state Medicaid program was authorized by the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 and support the goals of President Bush's New Freedom Initiative. The New Freedom Initiative is a government-wide effort to help provide persons with disabilities the tools they need to fully participate in their communities.

A total of 27 states now offer Medicaid to approximately 45,000 people with disabilities who work.

Taken from: HHS Press Release

WHERE IS IT FOUND IN THE DD ACT?

ANSWER....
Section 108. Construction

NEW PROGRAM TREATS RURAL YOUTH

Adolescents and teens with emotional and behavioral problems can receive treatment as part of a new study in eight of the poorest Appalachian counties in Eastern Tennessee. Researchers will work with judges, school administrators, and community leaders to overcome barriers to mental health services. The project is structured to ensure that successful therapies and partnerships with state funding agencies and organizations will continue after the study ends. The 5-year, more than \$4 million grant was funded by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), a part of the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

The study will include 720 children with serious conduct and other mental health problems, ages 9 to 17 years old, who were referred to juvenile courts. Half of the children selected from each county will receive an evidence-based practice called multisystemic therapy (MST). The other half will receive the usual care for children referred to juvenile court from community mental health centers, private practitioners, and state child welfare and juvenile justice systems.

MST typically lasts for 4 to 5 months. The duration and frequency of treatment sessions varies with circumstances, needs, and progress. A family setting allows therapists to observe and help change behaviors in a normal environment rather than a clinical setting. The state's largest private children's mental health service provider will treat children in their homes who are eligible for Medicaid and children of the working poor who are not eligible, with reimbursement by the Medicaid-waiver health insurance program.

For the second part of the study, psychologists trained in organizational and community development will work with local opinion leaders to support mental health treatment and family care. This intervention, which will assist therapists serving children in widely dispersed, isolated communities, aims to change the social context in which treatment occurs.

To assess community change toward treatment, leaders from key institutions will be interviewed at baseline and at 6-month intervals. Research suggests that different perceptions in the way a problem is understood may emerge. For example, school superintendents often operate under "zero-tolerance" policies, i.e., infractions that result in expulsion regardless of circumstances, which can conflict with a therapist's treatment. Agents will use information, feedback, participatory decisions, and conflict resolution to identify barriers to service and recommend improvements to mental health services, judicial policies, and school systems.

*Taken from: National Institutes of Health Press
July 29, 2003*

Comment on Federal Regulations

Regulations.gov is the award-winning U.S. Government web site that makes it easier for you to participate in Federal rule-making - an essential part of the American democratic process.

On this site, you can find, review, and submit comments on Federal documents that are open for comment and published in the *Federal Register*, the Government's legal newspaper. As a member of the public, you can submit comments about these regulations, and have the Government take your views into account.

Click the image on the right of the web page or select the "Search" button on the navigation bar to find Federal regulations that are currently open for comment. Then, you may use the "Submit a Comment on this Regulation" link to express your opinion on a specific document. Alternatively, you may submit a comment directly to the agency through the PDF and HTML version.

SAMHSA GRANTS TO AMERICAN INDIAN/ ALASKA NATIVES

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) announced a \$1 million grant to the American Indian/Alaska Native National Resource Center. The resource center is the result of collaboration between SAMHSA and the Indian Health Service (IHS), both agencies are within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Working with stakeholders from across the country, the center will provide a blueprint for comprehensive services that honor the traditional ways of living and healing among Native Americans.

The grant will be used to target American Indian/Alaska Natives for substance abuse treatment and prevention programs that are evidence-based and culturally effective. In addition to this, the funds will provide training, technical assistance, and products to expand the capacity and quality of substance abuse prevention and treatment practitioners serving this population. For more information please contact SAMHSA press office at (301) 443-3740.

*Taken from: HHS Weekly Report
July 21, 2003*

HHS AWARDS \$45.7 MILLION TO PLAN AND CARE FOR AMERICANS WITH HIV/AIDS

HHS announced 61 grants totaling more than \$45.7 million to help states, territories and communities plan for and provide comprehensive health care services, including medications, for Americans living with HIV/AIDS.

The funds will provide critical support to the organizations caring for, or planning to care for, some of our most vulnerable populations afflicted with AIDS. The grants are from programs funded by the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency (CARE) Act, which is administered by HHS' Health Resources and Services Administration. Specific grants announced were:

- 24 grants totaling \$22.6 million under the Title IV Comprehensive Family Services Program to provide comprehensive HIV/AIDS care for women, infants, children, youth and their affected families;
- 17 matching grants totaling \$21.4 million under the Title II Supplemental AIDS Drug Assistance Program to help 14 states, the Virgin Islands, Guam and Puerto Rico provide life-saving medications for people living with HIV/AIDS;
- 14 grants totaling \$1.4 million under the Title III Capacity Building Program to help organizations strengthen current health care delivery systems and expand high-quality HIV primary health care services; and
- 6 one-year grants totaling \$299,058 under the Title III Planning Program to help organizations prepare to provide high-quality comprehensive HIV primary health care services.

HRSA's HIV/AIDS Bureau administers CARE Act programs, since fiscal year 1991, Congress has appropriated \$13.6 billion in the CARE Act funding.

Taken from: HHS News Release/July 31, 2003

Smart Marriages Conference – Dallas 2004



SAVE THE DATE!

The 8th Annual Smart Marriages Conference

July 8-11, 2004

(Pre & Post Training Institutes July 6-14)

Adam's Mark Hotel
Dallas, Texas

For more information contact:

Diane Sollee, Director

Coalition for Marriage, Family and Couples Education, LLC (CMFCE)

5310 Belt Rd NW,

Washington, DC 20015-1961

Phone: 202-362-3332

Fax: 202-362-0973

Financial Corner

New Financial Status Reporting Format

The Administration on Developmental Disabilities has recently issued the new Financial Status Reporting Format for State Councils on Developmental Disabilities (ADD-Information Memorandum-03-02). The ADD-02/SF-269 supersedes the old ADD-01/SF-269 that was formerly used to report financial status information.

The new form is designed for reporting on a single form the financial status of funding provided during the current fiscal year together with the financial status of one-year prior and two-years prior fiscal funding.

Councils should begin using the form in FFY 2004.

For a copy of the Information Memorandum, forms, and instructions, please see the Administration on Developmental Disabilities web site at: <http://www.acf.dhhs.gov/programs/add/im-03-02.htm>.

Data Universal Numbering System

On June 27, 2003, the Office of Management and Budget published in the Federal Register a new Federal policy applicable to all Federal grant applicants. The policy requires all Federal grant applicants to provide a Dun and Bradstreet Data Universal Numbering System (DUNS) number when applying for Federal grants or cooperative agreements on or after October 1, 2003. The DUNS number will be required whether an applicant is submitting a paper application or using the government-wide electronic portal (www.Grants.gov).

A DUNS number will be required for every application for a new award or renewal/continuation of an award, including applications or plans under formula, entitlement and block grant programs, submitted on or after October 1, 2003.

DUNS numbers can be requested at 1-866-705-5711 or www.dnb.com.

The *Region VI Developmental Disabilities Newsletter* is issued 6 times a year by the Region VI Administration for Children & Families.

Look for the next Newsletter in November 2003

Man's mind, once stretched by a new idea, never regains its original dimensions.

Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr.



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Administration for Children & Families
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On July 25, 2003, President Bush amended Executive Order 12994 of March 21, 1996 to change the name of the President's Committee on Mental Retardation to the "President's Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities."

The name change was recommended to the President by the Committee members after a majority vote.

address correction requested

highlights..

**ACF Region VI
Developmental Disabilities
Newsletter**